

GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP  
 James W. Perkins (JWP-6684)  
 200 Park Avenue  
 New York, New York 10166  
 Tel.: (212) 801-9200  
 Fax: (212) 801-6400  
[perkinsj@gtlaw.com](mailto:perkinsj@gtlaw.com)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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COMPAÑIA DEL BAJO CARONI (CAROMIN), C.A.,  
 Calle Cuenca, Manzana 7, Campo B de Ferrominera  
 Quinta Analú, Puerto Ordaz, Estado Bolívar Venezuela,  
 and

V.M.C. MINING COMPANY, C.A.,  
 Calle Cuenca, Manzana 7, Campo B de Ferrominera  
 Quinta Analú, Puerto Ordaz, Estado Bolívar Venezuela,

Plaintiffs,

- against -

BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA,  
 c/o Consulate General of Venezuela  
 7 East 51<sup>st</sup> Street  
 New York, New York 10022, and

MINISTRY OF BASIC INDUSTRIES AND MINES  
 c/o Consulate General of Venezuela  
 7 East 51<sup>st</sup> Street  
 New York, New York 10022,

Defendants.

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Civil Action No. 07 CV 3179 (NRB)

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**DECLARATION OF  
 JAMES W. PERKINS  
 IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR  
 ORDER GRANTING LEAVE TO  
 WITHDRAW AS COUNSEL**

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JAMES W. PERKINS, an attorney duly admitted to practice in the courts of the State of New York and before this Court, declares the following under the penalties of perjury:

1. I am a Shareholder with the firm Greenberg Traurig, LLP, ("GT") the former attorneys for Compañía Del Bajo Caroni (Caromin), C.A, and V.M.C. Mining Company, C.A., which are the Plaintiffs in this action. I am familiar with the proceedings in this case. I make this statement based on my personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein and in support of the motion for an order discharging GT and co-counsel Colson, Hicks, Eidson ("Colson") as counsel for Plaintiffs in this matter.

2. In or about March 2007, Plaintiffs retained GT and Colson. On behalf of plaintiffs, GT initiated this action and filed papers in opposition to defendant's motion to dismiss the complaint. Colson was later admitted in this case as counsel *pro hac vice*.

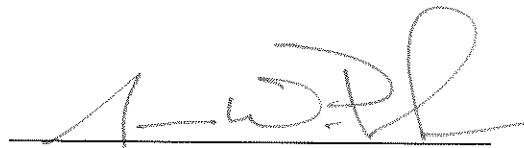
3. On January 1, 2008, Plaintiffs, by their Legal Representative, Manuel Fernandez, notified GT by email that it and Colson were both discharged as counsel. The email further directed that we seek, on behalf of plaintiffs, a 30 to 45 day adjournment of the oral argument on defendants' motion to dismiss. We are advised that defense counsel has objected to any adjournment of the argument date which is now scheduled for January 24, 2008.

4. The New York Code of Professional Responsibility requires a lawyer "representing a client before a tribunal, with its permission if required by its rules [to withdraw] if . . . [t]he lawyer is discharged by his or her client." N.Y.S.B.A. Code of Professional Responsibility DR 2-110(B)(4). Rule 1.4 of the Local Rules of the United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York provides that "[a]n attorney who has appeared as attorney of record for a party may be relieved or displaced only by order of the court and may not withdraw from a case without leave of the court granted by order."

5. Since GT and Colson have been discharged as plaintiffs' counsel, they respectfully request an Order granting them leave to withdraw as counsel for plaintiffs in this

action so that they may comply with the mandatory withdrawal requirement of the New York Code of Professional Responsibility.

Dated: New York, New York  
January 4, 2008



JAMES W. PERKINS